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CANADA AND ILLINOIS

COMPARED!

BEING AN ANSWER TO CAIRD'S

SLANDERS ON CANADA.

BY THE LATE WILLIAM HUTTON, ESQ., SECRETARY TO THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE.

FIFTH EDITION.

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1862.

The EDITH *and* LORNE PIERCE
COLLECTION *of* CANADIANA

Queen's University at Kingston

To the Editor of the "Old Countryman,"

Mr. Editor,—

Goëthe has said, "It is not by attacks on the false, but by the calm exposition of the true, that good is to be done." Taking the above as an excellent rule of action, I have given Mr. Caird's pamphlet, entitled, "Prairie Farming in America," a very attentive perusal; and I think Mr. Caird deserves much credit for the candid way in which he has treated the subject of the British settlers' prospects in Illinois, in very many points of vital importance. The inferences, however, which may be fairly drawn from the facts and figures he has given us, are in many instances calculated to produce widely different results from those which he appears to have anticipated, and no doubt expects his reader to arrive at. Without dwelling upon the report that Mr. Caird is personally and largely interested in the Illinois Central Railroad Company, and their lands, I proceed to examine the merits of his pamphlet.

The prevalence of ague, to which Mr. Caird has alluded in pages 11, 12, 28, 29, 40, 59, 64, 75, 95 and 96, New York edition, especially in pages 95 and 96, where he gives the experience of a leading physician of twenty years' practice, cannot fail to be very apalling to intending emigrants who carefully peruse his work, especially as this physician plainly states that in his opinion "old people ought not to come (to Illinois) at all, as the ague is very fatal to them;" and adds by way of solace, that "Chicago (being an older settlement) was now almost free from ague, that typhus had taken its place in a greatly modified extent, and that pneumonia and rheumatism were the only other diseases that were severe." Candid and explicit as these warnings are, it may be fairly added, that the very great prevalence of ague, and the total prostration with which it is accompanied, often extending even to weeks and months together on these prairie lands, is not sufficiently portrayed. It not

unfrequently happens that whole families are so prostrated, that it is with difficulty any one member of it can be found able to alleviate the sufferings of the rest; and in remote situations it is often extremely difficult to procure aid from other families. The effects of this prostration are often very seriously felt in the delay and even non-performance of the necessary farm-work, the neglect of cattle, and often the partial loss of a season's crops. For this reason, if farmers are determined to settle on prairie land, they should make arrangement for three or four or more families to settle together, and, in charity, Mr. Caird should have suggested this; but it is my purpose to shew that settlers in the bush of Canada have much better prospects in every way than in the prairies of Illinois, not only as regards the comparative freedom from ague, but for acquiring actual prosperity and speedy independence. In endeavouring to show this I will take Mr. Caird's own representations as the basis; although very great errors have crept into his work, seriously affecting the general character of Canadian soils and Canadian farming. The quotation of a few passages will serve to show how hurried must have been his ride through the country, how very erroneous the ideas which he formed. At page 20 he says: "From Prescott to Kingston, and thence to Cobourg, the country is but partially cleared; very often the train shoots for many miles together through the primeval forest, a path having been cut in the woods for the railway track, and the felled trees and branches still lying where thrown on both sides of the line." This latter assertion may be literally true, but Mr. Caird himself, as well as his readers, will be surprised to learn, that at least seven-eighths of this very route is through a remarkably fine agricultural country; through lands held by the very best and most successful farmers, having very large clearances, comfortable dwellings, and out-houses, and good orchards. The counties from Prescott to Cobourg, through which Mr. Caird's route lay, contain 240,000 inhabitants. For twenty years there have been fine herds of Ayrshire and Durham cattle little inferior to the best cattle in England, and even 40 miles back of the frontier may be seen farms of from 200 to 400 acres, well cultivated, heavy crops, excellent horses, cattle and sheep. The railway track passes through the rear part of their farms, purposely reserved "a primeval forest," for firewood; three-fourths, more probably, of their large farms being under cultivation. The railway company purchased the land *in rear* because the farmers did not wish their farms to be intersected by railroads, and they sold the land in the rear cheaper than they would have sold any other part of their farms. The quotation above given, shows the great danger of judging a country merely by a railroad ride; and the danger of *publishing* the impressions thus erroneously acquired, especially by so well known a man as Mr. Caird, is greater still.

This may be further illustrated by extracts from pages 26, 27, 28, and 29; and it is certainly much to be regretted that Mr. Caird remained so short a time in Canada, and took such a very cursory glance of the col-

ony. Many of his remarks are truthful and valuable, but no individual, travelling as Mr. Caird did, *could* form a correct opinion of the agricultural status and prospects of Canada. At page 26, &c., he says, "the country from Hamilton to Paris is undulating, and seems an easier and more fertile soil; very little of it is wholly cleared; certainly more than half is still an unbroken forest, but the trees are immensely tall, and show the rapid growth which only a fertile soil could produce. Though this district is quite within the limit profitable of the culture of Indian Corn, a small proportion only of the land seems to be occupied by that crop. Its great value is every where admitted, but on this description of soil its cultivation demands too much labour. The last grain crop can hardly have been great, for in very few instances indeed are ricks to be seen outside the barns, and they are not capacions enough to contain large crops," &c.

Had Mr. Caird journeyed through this country in any other way than by railway, he would have formed a much more correct opinion of the extent under cultivation: this he has very much underrated. Fully three-fourths of this whole district of country is cleared and enclosed, and a large portion of it highly cultivated. If there was little Indian Corn in 1858, it was because other crops promised to pay better, and the spring of 1858 was peculiarly wet and cold; but there is a very large extent of it this year, and although a little late it will prove an abundant crop. The absence of ricks outside the barn, as alluded to by Mr. Caird, is owing to the great abundance of timber, and the great facility with which Canadians construct large barns, quite sufficient to hold even very luxuriant crops. Every good Canadian farmer provides substantial covering for his whole crops, instead of having recourse to ricks with their temporary covering of straw. The material, except nails, they have within themselves, and most of them can help to build them. The work of building a barn 60 feet by 30, and 18 feet post, can be done for £40 ster ing; and most farmers have two if not three of these large barns, besides long sheds in which to store hay, &c.; so that the absence of ricks is no criterion of deficiency; but, on the contrary, their presence is rather a sign that the farmer is a new settler, and as yet unable to put up the permanent covering for his produce, which old and successful farmers universally provide. As to Mr. Caird's assertion that on this "easier and more fertile soil" the cultivation of Indian corn demands too much labour, it may be safely urged that labour is cheaper in Canada than in Illinois, and that the corn crop is nearly as productive in the district he alludes to as it is in Illinois, and being of a much superior quality sells at a much higher price. The fact is, that wheat in this district has been hitherto so fine, and selling at such high prices, that the growth of Indian corn has been neglected too much for the welfare of the farmer. This very part of Canada which Mr. Caird describes in the above quotation is noted for producing the very finest samples of wheat, weighing 62 lbs., and even 63 lbs., to the Winchester bushel, and has for years carried off

the Canada Company's prize of 100 dollars; and it was in this distr ic that the prize wheat exhibited at the Crystal Palace in England was grown. There are often from 50 to 150 acres of wheat on one farm in this section. The great inducement to sow wheat has hitherto caused many farmers to trespass too much, perhaps, upon the properties of the soil required for this crop; but if Mr. Caird were this year to visit this part of the country, and view it (not from a railway car window) he would find more extensive fields of his favourite crop, and likely to pay a higher *acreable* profit than the Illinois prairie land, because the prices in Canada are almost double those of Central Illinois, where the corn is of a coarser description. This perseverance in the growth of wheat is an evil that time will remedy; especially as the growth of other grain, and also sheep and dairy farming, are more certainly remunerating. Another extract from page 28 gives a remarkable instance of misguided judgment and grievous misrepresentation, the first clause, however, of the extract being perfectly true.

Mr. Caird says, "a light sandy loam of good quality, only half cleared, is still valued at from £7 to £8 an acre, (sterling no doubt, as all his pounds are sterling throughout the pamphlet.) It is this comparatively high price of land in addition to the cost of clearing off the timber, that forces the emigrant westwards to a country where better soil with equal facilities of transport, can be bought for less than the mere cost of clearing this of its timber."

Taking the word "westwards" to mean Central Illinois, which seems to be the summit of Mr. Caird's American predilections, it may be most safely asserted that the soil there is *not better*, that the facilities of transport are *not equal*, and that even supposing land in Illinois could be bought for less than the mere cost of clearing in Canada, (say £3 10s. sterling per acre,) Mr. Caird has omitted to state the value of the timber cleared off. He will be surprised to be told that many pine trees on these very farms are and were worth from 6s. to 15s. each. It it not unusual for one tree to produce five saw-logs of twelve feet long each, worth 4s. to 5s. sterling, each log. The timber alone, of well-grown cedar swamps in all the settled districts of Canada West, is worth £4 to £5 per acre, on the spot; and even if the hard wood is all burnt to ashes, the ashes of three acres will, with very little outlay of capital or labour, produce a barrel of potash worth £6 sterling. The value of the timber on our wild lands in good situations, where saw-mills, or rivers to float saw-logs, are accessible, is very considerable. Our forests, instead of being a bugbear to the intelligent emigrant, are a very great source of wealth, and enable him to pay for his land, and erect the required buildings, and supply fence rails, and fuel, sugar, &c., which the settler on the prairie has to purchase, and sometimes at very high rates. That the soil is not better in Illinois than in Canada West can be easily proved. Which gives the largest crops of wheat per acre of the best quality? Decidedly Canada West. The probable average of Illinois is stated by Mr. Caird, at pages

55 and 89, as twenty bushels per acre, but at page 54 he gives the *probable* yield at eighteen to twenty, and the real yield "nothing but shrivelled husk;" and again at page 52, as nearly a total failure, and six hundred acres killed by frost, and at pages 75 and 76, he gives the yield of 1857 as little more than six bushels per acre; and according to the United States Census of 1850-1, Illinois did not yield ten bushels per acre, whereas the average of all Canada West that year was 16, 14-60; and of the counties to which Mr. Caird alludes to in the above extract, the average was twenty-one bushels. Then as to *quality of wheat*, that of Central Illinois is notoriously inferior. Merchants in Toronto import large quantities of it at about half the price of Canada wheat for distillery purposes, not being fit for making flour, except what is denominated by the Americans "stump-tailed flour," being of a third or fourth rate quality, and this is the general character of the prairie wheat in Central Illinois. Then as to price, Mr. Caird quotes it in several places at 3s. sterling, (75 cents.) At the very time Mr. Caird quotes this as being the price in the Illinois markets, Canada wheat was selling in Toronto and Hamilton and all our frontier markets, at exactly double that amount, 6s. sterling, (1½ dollar;) and at this date Upper Canada wheat is selling in our markets at double the price of Illinois wheat in Illinois markets.

Let old country farmers remember this, that even supposing the yield of bushels per acre to be the same, the price in Canada is double, and of course the value per acre double, and giving Mr. Caird's own averages, 20 bushels per acre, and his own prices, 3s. sterling per bushel, the Canadian farmer would pocket £3 sterling per acre more than the prairie farmer in Illinois; and this £3, be it remembered, is good interest for £50 on every acre of land sown in wheat, say one-sixth of the whole arable land, or £8 6s. 8d. per acre on all the wheat-producing land on the farm.

As far, therefore, as the culture of *wheat* is concerned, the settler in Canada West has a vast advantage over the settler in the Illinois prairie, the yield, the quality, and the price, being all superior in Canada West. The peninsula of Upper Canada consists of soils similar to those of the Genesee valley, in the state of New York, distinguished for the finest quality of wheat, which the American miller eagerly buys to mix with the coarser wheats of the western states. Canadian wheat makes the very finest flour, whilst western wheat makes only second and third rate qualities. The area of the fine wheat-growing lands on this continent is very limited, and Upper Canada occupies a large portion of it.

But, says Mr. Caird, "Indian corn is a great staple in Illinois." Let us take him at his own showing, and let us see the result. The average produce he gives in two places is 50 bushels per acre, and at another 40. The price at page 61 is 8d. per bushel; at page 74, 10d.; and at another place, page 51, one farthing per pound, or 1s. 3d. per bushel; at page 87 and 89, is 1s. 8d. per bushel. Taking the price at 1s. 3d. sterling on the spot, and the produce per acre at 50 bushels, (which is far too high an average, 40 being much more like the truth,)

we have £3 2s. 6d per acre the produce of a good average corn crop in Illinois. The cost of twice ploughing, planting, horse-hoeing, &c., is at least £2 2s. 6d. per acre, and the prairie farmer has £1 per acre at this showing for himself for interest on his purchase money, fencing, buildings, &c. Mr. Caird has truly and admirably said (page 54):—"If a man buys 600 acres and has not the means of cultivating more than 60, the 540 acres are a dead loss to him. He has to pay either the price or the interest of the price of this large, unproductive extent of land. The produce of the sixty acres is called upon to bear not only its own burden, but that of the nine-tenths which are idle. The lean kine thus eat up the one fat one." Probably four-fifths of the settlers buy what is called one quarter section, (being 160 acres,) and are not able for two or three years to cultivate more than the fourth of it; thus, the forty or eighty acres under cultivation, or whatever it may be, have to pay the whole interest on the purchase money of the 160 acres, and buildings erected. The rent or interest of course will vary, but taking the price at £3 sterling, and the fencing at 16s. per acre, and the buildings, &c., at £100, the rent of forty acres cropped, with house built, would be about £42 10s.,—thus:

First cost of land, at £3 per acre	£480	0	0
Cost of fencing 160 acres, at 16s. per acre, being 640 rods, at 4s. sterling	128	0	0
Buildings, Well, &c., &c	100	0	0
	£708	0	0

This £708 at six per cent. would be about £42 10s., or 21s. 3d. sterling per acre, leaving the farmer minus 1s. 3d. sterling per acre, on the actual cost, giving him barely labourer's wages, and no interest for his working-cattle, implements, &c., &c. The fencing of 160 acres requires 640 rods of fence, which at a very low calculation, is worth $1 per rod, or 4s. sterling. Mr. Caird makes the expense of fencing £60 per mile (see page 55;) but considering that price too high, I have taken £40 per mile. If a whole section is purchased (a mile square,) the outside fence on all sides would be four miles, and the acreable cost of enclosing would be much less than where only a quarter section is purchased; but every prairie farmer as well as every other farmer requires subdivisions of his farm, and 16s. sterling per acre is a very low estimate of the cost of fencing on any farm. So that Mr. Caird's represention at pages 89 and 90, where he says, "The third year begins by the prairie farmer finding himself the unencumbered owner of his land, all fenced and improved, with a stock of horses and implements, and the whole of his original capital in his pocket," is a monstrous delusion, calculated to do immense injury to his readers, who may be thereby tempted to settle on the aguish, treeless, shelterless, and arid prairies of Illinois. The idea, too, expressed at page 90, that "he may continue to crop his farm with Indian corn, from which he will reap very large returns on his capital," is, to say the

least of it, a much too glowing and sanguine view of the prairie farmer's prospects. At page 60 he gives the opinion of a Mr. Brown, an old farmer in the country, "that more money has been made, and may be made in this state by stock farming than by corn-growing;" and adds, (page 61,) "but he has not found short-horned stock so successful on the natural prairie grass, of which, on his own lands, he has no longer any."

To give us an idea of stock farming, Mr. Caird tells us (page 71) that "oxen of three years old, large and in what we should reckon fair condition for stall feeding, are valued here, *i. e.*, Central Illinois, at not more than £4!" And again at page 69, he quotes the price of beef at 2d. per lb.; and at page 72, a Kentucky farmer admits that two acres of his best blue grass land in Illinois were needed to fatten a three-year old short horned ox. At these prices stock farming cannot be profitable at all, and if *better* than corn-growing, what inference may we draw? The story of the ox and two hogs eating a hundred bushels of Indian corn (page 74,) and then being sold at 2d. per lb., is not calculated to give very favourable views of prairie farming. It is well Mr. Caird has so frankly represented these facts to enable British farmers to judge for themselves. It may be well to state here that cattle, sheep, beef, mutton, pork, and grain of all kinds in Canada, are fully double the prices quoted by Mr. Caird as being the prices in Central Illinois; and intelligent British farmers will no doubt govern themselves accordingly, especially as all other crops, except Indian corn, are more productive in Canada West, and labour quite as cheap. These high prices may be supposed to militate against mechanics and manufacturers, but where agricultural products are high, mechanics find more employment and better wages than when they are low. The farmers being more prosperous, are better able to carry on improvements of all kinds. Mr. Caird, at page 50, quotes the wages of a journeyman carpenter at 4s. per day, with his board; these wages are rather lower than in Canada, but the colony has suffered so severely by the late exceptional reverses, that there is little employment for tradesmen at present at high wages. If we have a good harvest and an average crop, times will improve rapidly; but it may be safely stated that it is not probable that either Illinois or Canada will ever again reach that state of inflated prosperity, caused by the late expenditure of millions of dollars in the purchase and formation of railway routes. The benefit of the colony will be permanent and substantial, but the first pioneers of the benefit will probably be severe sufferers. Mr. Caird has well said, and it appears true with regard to Canada also, that, "the development of railway accommodation has been too rapid, and has for the present outrun the immediate requirements of Illinois."

I have alluded to the fact that wheat and all other grain, except Indian corn, are more productive in Canada West than in Central Illinois. The circumstances of climate are, perhaps, the chief cause of the superiority of Canada West. The great wheat-producing countries of Europe lie between the 50th and 59th degrees of north lattitude, where the summer

temperature is from 55° to 65°; but in Central Illinois, where the latitude is about 38°, the summer heat is 78°, and often as high in the shade as from 90 to 100° in June, July, and August. This climate is too hot for the profitable culture of European grains or grasses; they grow there, it is true, but are generally of a very inferior description. The wheat this year (1859) is fortunately a very tolerable sample, and the yield a fair average; much of it was harvested the first week of July: one very large field, I was told by a farming friend who witnessed the operation, was cut with a "heading machine," *i. e.*, the heads of the wheat were cut off immediately below the ear, and dropped into a box which was emptied into waggons accompanying the machine. The straw being of little value was left standing.

As far as regards the wheat crop, this year is an improvement upon several of the past years; but as to other crops, barley, oats, rye, and peas, there does not appear to be much change for the better. With the exception of Indian corn, they are not by any means extensively or successfully cultivated.

By the last census of Canada, taken in 1851-52, her population was about 1-13 of that of the Union, her occupied acres about 1-17th; yet her growth of wheat was very nearly one-sixth of that of the whole Union, of barley it was more than one-fourth, and of oats one-seventh. Of all grain, exclusive of Indian corn, Canada produced *one-sixth of that of the whole Union, territories included.*

These are important facts for the consideration of British emigrants, who, instead of settling on the bleak prairies of the United States, may wish to enjoy a climate not very different from their own, and decidedly healthful; and who may wish to cultivate the same species and description of grain that they have been used to, or to continue their dairies, or to indulge in their beef and mutton producing tendencies, with a fair hope of remuneration.

The prospect of having but little fruit in Central Illinois, is another very important consideration. The land where trees do not naturally grow, can scarcely be expected to be very congenial to fruit trees. It is only too true that in many parts of Illinois fruit trees will not thrive.

Another extract from Mr. Caird (page 29) is worthy of comment, as it portrays a great want of knowledge of facts with regard to the relative increase of population in Canada and Illinois, and is calculated to mislead his readers. Mr. C. says, "Canada West is richer than Canada East, and is more populous; but there is a richer territory still farther west, where labour is yet more productive, and, though in the present state of the country the risk of health is greater, it is ten times more populous, for men push on to the land in which they can most quickly and easily earn an independence."

What will Mr. Caird himself say, when he is told that Canada West has increased in population in a much greater ratio than his favourite state of Illinois!

By the United States Census of 1850, it appears that the three states of Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois, contained in 1830, 1,126,851, and in 1850, 3,505,000; a little over 320 per cent. in twenty years. Canada West contained in 1830, 210,437; in 1850, 791,000, which is over 375 per cent. for the same period of twenty years; so that the increase in these choice states was fifty-five per cent. less than that of Canada West during the same time. Some of our counties in Canada West, viz., Huron, Perth, and Bruce, have increased 571 per cent. in ten years.

Comparing the last decade of Canada West with that of the United States, we find that the increase during the ten years from 1840 to 1850, was 35·27 per cent., whilst that of Upper Canada was 104·58 per cent.

We have had no census in Canada since 1851-52; but there is every reason to believe that the ratio of increase, not including immigration, has continued very much the same, and there is a *certainty* that Mr. Caird's representation as to comparative increase of population in Illinois is entirely *erroneous*. Immigration to the United States has fallen off quite as much in proportion as that into Canada. The statement that an independence can be more quickly and easily earned in Illinois than in Canada West, is simply a delusion, and has been frequently proved by the return of settlers, who, like Mr. Caird, were attracted by the more inviting appearance of prairies to old-country eyes. But as Mr. Caird has given a Dr. and Cr. for Illinois, at page 89, I will give a similar one for Canada. Let old-country capitalists who can command the required sum (say £750 sterling) diligently compare the two, and keep in mind the permanent difference in the quality and prices of produce, and the healthfulness of Canada, and the choice between the two will be no difficult matter to decide, even in the matter of dollars and cents, without alluding to our British Constitution, our British feeling, British tone of morality, our British social atmosphere, &c., which Britons always appreciate more highly after a short residence in the United States.

Mr. Caird thus gives the probable Dr. and Cr. of 100 acres of land for two years in Central Illinois.

Dr.

Cash price of 100 acres, sterling	£200	0	0
Contract price of fencing, breaking, sowing with wheat, reaping and threshing, and building a labourer's cottage, and stable and shed	250	0	0
Capital invested in the purchase of four horses, implements and harness	110	0	0
	£560	0	0
2nd year, wages of 2 men, horse-keep, taxes and accounts	200	0	0
	£760	0	0

Cr.

1st crop wheat, 2000 bushels at 3s. 6d., £350 ; 2nd crop Indian corn, 5000 bushels, at 1s. 8d., £416	766	0	0
Surplus after second crop, besides the value of land and stock..	£6	0	0

In Canada West the Dr. and Cr. are on the same basis. Taking 100 acres brought into cultivation, they would stand thus: Capitalists can bring 100 acres into cultivation in Canada, as well as in the United States, although such is seldom or never done that I am aware of.

Dr.

Cash price of 100 acres of land, at 3s. 3d	£16	5	0
Contract price for clearing, fencing, and seeding, at £3 10s. per acre	350	0	0
Contract price for building a small house or shed	50	0	0
Capital invested in oxen, (two yoke) chains, &c	34	0	0
Capital invested in potash kettle	10	0	0
Capital invested in labour making potash and barrels	40	0	0
Second year, board and wages of 3 men and 5 in harvest, ox keep, &c	180	0	0
	£680	5	0

Cr.

Potash, 20 barrels, at £6	£120	0	0			
Pine timber, say 100 trees, at 6s	30	0	0			
(Where the timber is good for making potash there is not much pine, for this reason I have set down a small sum.)						
First crop of wheat, 2000 bushels, at 5s	500	0	0			
Second crop, barley, rye, oats, peas, and potatoes, at £3 per acre, average	300	0	0			
				950	0	0
Surplus after the second crop, besides land, &c				£269	15	0

This comparison, which is justly and fairly given, shews that the Canadian capitalist has the advantage over the prairie capitalist of £269 15s. sterling in two years; and to shew that these representations are by no means overdrawn, I give below the *official* published returns by our Government agent, on the Ottawa, of the total produce of 800 acres of newly cleared land, for the yenr 1858, with the prices which he has attached, and which are not, as may be deemed, exceptional.

Mr. French says :—"Upon these 800 acres there were raised:

5726 bushels of wheat, at $1 per bushel	$5726	00	
2916 " oats, at 40 cents per bushel	1166	40	
Carried forward	$6892	40	

Brought forward		$6892 40
149 bushels of	barley, at 50 cents per bushel	74 50
168 "	Indian corn, at $1 per bushel	168 00
16799 "	potatoes at 10 cents per bushel	6718 30
6350 "	turnips at 10 cents per bushel	635 00
87 tons of	hay, at 5 dollars per ton	435 00
260 tons of	straw, at 4 dollars per ton	1040 00
4012 lbs. of	sugar, at 10 cents per lb	401 20
108 barrels of	potash, at 24 dollars per barrel	2522 00
9159 bushel of	ashes, at 8 cents per bushel	739 92
Making a total of		$19626 32

And showing the average value of each acre to be something over twenty-four dollars sixty cents, or £5 sterling for one year," an amount far above Mr. Caird's representation of the Illinois prairies. For three of the above articles, viz., potatoes, hay, and straw, a market could not be found on a prairie farm; and three other articles, potash, ashes, and sugar, could not be produced. Mr. French has omitted to give credit for the timber used in their houses and sheds, or sold to timber merchants.

Let old-country farmers carefully compare these two statements, and remember also that they are likely to have good health in Canada, good water, and plenty of it, and no necessity of Artesian wells 127 feet deep; good apples and pears and small fruit, and vegetables of every kind in abundance, good markets for every thing they grow, good timber for their houses and fences and fires, and a good Government that provides handsomely for the education of their families—even much better than in the United States; and if they will be guided by the honest opinion of a man of twenty-five years' experience in Canada as an agriculturist, they will pause before they prefer the prairies of Central Illinois to the woods of Canada. The woods modify the heat of summer and cold of winter, whilst the prairies of Illinois are subject to terrific winds and storms and snow in winter, and often most dreadful and devastating fires —and the ever-falling leaves of our woods are ever depositing a rich compost, far superior to that of the long thin prairie grass. There is still another very important consideration regarding these level prairie lands, that is, that many of them cannot be settled on till drained of the sour and unwholesome surface water; and, from the nature of the country, draining is a very expensive operation, and not unfrequently entirely impracticable. Deep permanent springs are often very difficult to find, and there is much suffering both by man and beast for want of really good pure water.

To corroborate what I have said, with regard to the deficiency of the yield of wheat, and other crops in the United States, I give below a quotation from a very late and very clever publication by John Jay, being "A Statistical View of American Agriculture, its Home Resources and

Foreign Markets, &c., in an address delivered at New York before the American Geographical and Statistical Society, on the Organization of the Agricultural Section," New York, 1859. "The average number of bushels of wheat to the acre in Alabama and Georgia is five; in North Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee, seven; ranging upwards in the other States until it reaches twelve in New York, Ohio, and Indiana; thirteen in Maryland and Vermont; fourteen in Iowa and Wisconsin; fifteen in Florida, Pennsylvania, and Texas; and sixteen (the highest average) in Massachusetts. Oats range from ten bushels to the acre through various intermediate gradations, to thirty-five and thirty-six bushels, which is the highest." The Journal of the Highland Society of Scotland thus observes: "If the above statement, as given by Mr. Jay, be correct, the state of farming in many parts of America must be indeed in a wretched condition—the American maximum corresponds to our minimum;" adding, however, the following, which appears to be only too true with regard to late years, but reports of this year's crop indicate that the evil is not progressing. "We believe," says the Journal, "that the wheat crop has recently suffered much from the increased ravages of insects, and from various diseases to which it seems to be becoming more and more subject."

Since the above was written, the prospects of the wheat crop in the United States this year appear to be more promising than usual, and in Canada there is every prospect of a very handsome return. From all quarters of Canada West, reports have been sent to this office of expected large crops of wheat, say from thirty to forty bushels per acre; and of spring grain most abundant supplies, including that of Indian corn: and corroborative of what I have stated, with regard to the yield of this grain in Illinois not exceeding forty bushels per acre, I again quote Mr. Jay's statements, as given by the same journal: "Commencing," he says, "at eleven bushels per acre, the returns of produce of Indian corn range through various gradations in the different States, up to thirty-two in Vermont and Iowa; thirty-three in Missouri; thirty-six in Ohio, and forty in Connecticut." This last is the highest return given.

I am, Sir,
Yours, with respect,

WILLIAM HUTTON,
Secretary to Bureau of Agriculture.

Toronto, July 22, 1859.